

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 24, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 160

Introduced by Assembly Member V. Manuel Perez
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Salas)
(Coauthors: Senators Ducheny and Huff)

April 19, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 160—Relative to the Imperial Valley Pioneers ~~Highway~~ *Expressway*.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 160, as amended, V. Manuel Perez. Imperial Valley Pioneers ~~Highway~~ *Expressway*.

This measure would designate the portion of State Highway Route 111 between ~~State Highway Route~~ *Interstate* 8 and State Highway Route 78, in Imperial County, as the Imperial Valley Pioneers ~~Highway~~ *Expressway*. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost for appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, In 1849, advancements in engineering made it
- 2 possible for water to be conveyed from the Colorado River to the
- 3 interior desert of Southern California, creating the opportunity for
- 4 year-round farming; and
- 5 WHEREAS, By 1901, courageous pioneers from throughout
- 6 the world, staking their future on the region’s agricultural promise,

1 began to relocate to the vast desert area now called the Imperial
2 Valley; and

3 WHEREAS, These pioneers reflected the cultural melting pot
4 of the early twentieth century, a patchwork quilt of peoples —
5 including African American, Chinese, East Indian, Filipino, French,
6 German, Greek, Irish, Italian, Japanese American, Lebanese,
7 Mexican, Portuguese, and Swiss — that has contributed to
8 California's rich diversity today; and

9 WHEREAS, These pioneers envisioned the potential for
10 prosperous and thriving communities in the harsh environment of
11 the low desert, leveling their own land and constructing the first
12 roads and canals, making way for the development of homes,
13 schools, businesses, and places of worship; and

14 WHEREAS, The determination, ingenuity, and hard work of
15 the Imperial Valley pioneers helped to create a thriving \$1 billion
16 annual agricultural economy, making it one of the most productive
17 farming regions in California; and

18 WHEREAS, Imperial Valley pioneers became leading members
19 of the community, helping to establish civic, religious, charitable,
20 and other organizations to advance quality of life in the region;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, The Imperial Valley Pioneers Association was
23 established in 1928 for the purpose of uniting pioneer families in
24 the area and educating newcomers about the history of the early
25 settlers to keep history alive for future generations; and

26 WHEREAS, The Pioneers Museum and Cultural Center, located
27 at Pioneers Park near the City of Imperial, is operated by the
28 Imperial County Historical Society and is a rich archive of
29 documents, newspapers, personal letters, period furniture,
30 photographs, clothing, and sundry equipment used by early settlers,
31 with galleries honoring the different ethnic communities and their
32 history of settlement in the Imperial Valley; and

33 WHEREAS, It is valuable and important to commemorate the
34 remarkable modern history of the irrigated desert and of the people
35 who settled it, to learn from the inspiring American story of diverse
36 people uniting around the common dream of a better future, and
37 to honor the vision and daring of those who opened the rugged
38 desert frontier and built a community enjoyed by succeeding
39 generations; now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
2 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes the significant
3 contributions made by Imperial Valley pioneers to the State of
4 California and designates the portion of State Highway Route 111
5 between ~~State Highway Route~~ *Interstate* 8 and State Highway
6 Route 78, in Imperial County, as the Imperial Valley Pioneers
7 ~~Highway~~ *Expressway*; and be it further

8 *Resolved,* That the Department of Transportation is requested
9 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the
10 signing requirements for the state highway system showing this
11 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
12 sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it
13 further

14 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
15 of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
16 author for appropriate distribution.